

REMARKS

Applicant hereby responds to the Office Action mailed July 19, 2011 in relation to the above-identified patent application. In that Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 24-31 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by the Asano et al. reference (U.S. Patent No. 5,929,513). Additionally, the Examiner rejected Claims 14-23 under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Lee reference (U.S. Patent No. 6,157,074) considered in combination with the Huang et al. reference (U.S. Patent No. 6,414,385). Finally, the Examiner rejected Claims 14-31 on grounds of non-statutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over Claims 1-7 of Applicant's U.S. Patent No. 6,639,308.

Summary of Claim Amendments

By this Amendment, Applicant has amended each of independent Claims 14, 24 and 28 to characterize the leads of each set as each having "*a substantially straight configuration devoid of any bends.*"

The Obviousness-Type Double Patenting Rejection of Claims 14-31

Submitted herewith for the Examiner's consideration is duly executed Terminal Disclaimers wherein Applicant has agreed to disclaim that term of any patent issuing in relation to the subject patent application which extends beyond the expiration date of Applicant's U.S. Patent No. 6,639,308. Applicant respectfully submits that the submission of this Terminal Disclaimer effectively overcomes the obviousness-type double patenting rejections advanced by the Examiner in the subject Office Action.

Amended Independent Claims 24 and 28 are Not Anticipated by the Asano et al. Reference

In their amended form, independent Claims 24 and 28 each recite:

... a peripheral tie bar; and

a plurality of leads which each have a substantially straight configuration devoid of any bends, the leads extending from the tie bar in isolation from each other and segregated into two sets, with the leads of each set being linearly aligned and

arranged in spaced, substantially parallel relation to each other along the entire lengths thereof such that each of the leads of one set extends in opposed relation to a respective one of the leads of the remaining set...

Applicant respectfully submits that at least the aforementioned features from each of amended independent Claims 24 and 28 are not satisfied by the Asano et al. reference. In the Response to Arguments section of the subject Office Action, the Examiner argues that the verbiage presented in Applicant's prior Amendment of May 9, 2011 regarding the leads of each set being arranged in spaced, substantially parallel relation to each other along the entire lengths thereof does not differentiate either of Claims 24 and 28 from the prior art for several reasons. First, the Examiner argues that the term "substantially" is equally as broad as the term "generally" and thus does not impart a distinction over such term, with leads that are "substantially parallel" thus not necessarily being precluded from having portions which are "bent." Second, based on the interpretation given to the term "substantially," the Examiner argues the leads of the prior art are "substantially parallel along the entire length" since "they do not cross each other." Along these lines, the Examiner further notes "that lines do not have to be straight to be parallel."

The changes to independent Claims 24 and 28 highlighted above, wherein the leads of each set are now characterized as each having *a substantially straight configuration devoid of any bends*, while also being arranged in spaced, *substantially parallel* relation to each other *along the entire lengths thereof*, are believed to differentiate such claims from the teachings of the Asano et al. reference. In this regard, Applicant respectfully submits in Figures 3A-3C of the Asano et al. reference highlighted by the Examiner in the subject Office Action, none of the inner leads 33 of any set thereof have a substantially straight configuration devoid of any bends, while further extending in spaced, substantially parallel relation to each other along the entire lengths thereof. Instead, as appears to have been conceded by both the Examiner and the BPAI, the inner leads 33 of each set are bent at different angles. Nor are the inner leads 33 believed to be substantially parallel to each other along the entire lengths thereof as a result of the various bends formed therein. Further, due to the inner leads 33 of each set being bent at differing angles, they are not linearly aligned, nor do they extend in opposed relation to respective ones of the inner leads 33 of another set.

Thus, based on the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that amended independent Claim 24 and 28 are not anticipated by the Asano et al. reference and are in condition for allowance, as are Claims 25-27 and 29-31 as being dependent upon respective allowable base claims.

Amended Independent Claim 14 is Not Rendered Obvious by the Combination of the Lee and Huang et al. References

In independent Claim 14 in its amended form, the semiconductor package is described as comprising:

... a leadframe comprising a plurality of leads which each have a substantially straight configuration devoid of any bends, the leads being segregated into two sets, with the leads of each set being linearly aligned and arranged in spaced, substantially parallel relation to each other along the entire lengths thereof such that each of the leads of one set extends in opposed relation to a respective one of the leads of the remaining set...

Applicant respectfully submits that at least the aforementioned features from amended independent Claim 14 are not satisfied by the Lee and Huang et al. references. The Examiner's argument in support of the applicability of the prior art to Claim 14 in the Response to Arguments section of the subject Office Action is the same as discussed above in relation to Claims 24 and 28.

The changes to independent Claim 14 highlighted above, wherein the leads of each set are now characterized as each having *a substantially straight configuration devoid of any bends*, while also being arranged in spaced, *substantially parallel* relation to each other *along the entire lengths thereof*, are believed to differentiate Claim 14 from the combined teachings of the Lee and Huang et al. references. In this regard, Applicant respectfully submits that in the Lee reference, none of the inner leads 6 of any set thereof (as shown in Figures 5 and 7) have a substantially straight configuration devoid of any bends, while further extending in spaced, substantially parallel relation to each other along the entire lengths thereof. Instead, as also appears to have been conceded by both the Examiner and the BPAI, the inner leads 6 of each set are bent at different angles. Nor are the inner leads 6 believed to be substantially parallel to each other along the entire lengths thereof as a result

of the various bends formed therein. Further, due to the inner leads 6 of each set being bent at differing angles, they are not linearly aligned, nor do they extend in opposed relation to respective ones of the inner leads 6 of another set. In the subject Office Action, the Huang et al. reference is cited only for its purported teaching of semiconductor package including leads having bottom surfaces which are generally coplanar with the lower surface of a sealing material.

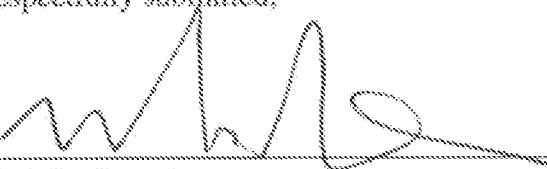
Thus, based on the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that amended independent Claim 14 is not rendered obvious by the combination of the Lee and Huang et al. references, and is in condition for allowance, as are Claims 15-23 as being dependent upon an allowable base claim.

Conclusion

On the basis of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that the stated grounds of rejection have been overcome, and that Claims 14-31 are now in condition for allowance. An early notice of Allowance is therefore respectfully requested.

If any additional fee is required, please charge Deposit Account Number 19-4330.

Respectfully submitted,

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